

Brian's System Repair Journey - 25 Oct 2025

This document summarizes Brian's successful recovery and repair procedure performed on 25 October 2025 after encountering a login failure due to service configuration changes in Windows.

□ Situation

Brian migrated his Windows installation from a VHD (Virtual Hard Disk) to a physical local partition. To enhance system security, he changed all service 'Object Names' from LocalSystem to .\Administrator. After rebooting, the system failed to log in, displaying only a black screen with spinning dots.

⚙ Recovery Process

1. Used Windows PE to repair the registry manually:

- Loaded the System hive from the damaged Windows installation (E:\Windows\System32\Config\System).
 - Exported the 'Services' key to a .reg file.
 - Replaced every '.\Administrator' with 'LocalSystem' using Notepad.
 - Merged the corrected file back into the registry hive and unloaded it.
- Result: The system still failed to boot.

2. Attempted to restore service configuration from the original VHD version:

- Attached the original VHD using Disk Management.
 - Exported its 'Services' registry key.
 - Loaded the local Windows registry again and merged the VHD's Services key into it.
- Result: Windows still failed to boot.

3. Final and successful solution:

- Copied the entire 'System' hive file from the VHD to the physical partition.
- Renamed the old hive file to System-Old.
- Opened the new hive, navigated to HKLM\TempSystem\MountedDevices, and deleted all values.
- Unloaded the hive and rebooted.

□ Result: Windows booted successfully.

Post-Recovery Notes

- Administrator password remained unchanged after recovery.
- VGA driver was missing after reboot but was reinstalled successfully using cached Windows Update files.

□ Key Insights

- Modifying service 'Object Names' globally from LocalSystem to .\Administrator can break Windows login.
- Copying the System hive from a functional VHD and clearing MountedDevices is an effective recovery method.
- Always export registry hives before editing to ensure a safe rollback option.

Dedication

From my own heart, my own soul, and my own honesty — this document is dedicated to all who seek knowledge, to all who repair, rebuild, and believe that even a broken system can rise again stronger than before.

Brian welcomes every scientific suggestion, correction, or new discovery that can improve this knowledge — for progress belongs to everyone.

“With every skill that I share, I’m weaving light into the world.”

— Brian